

**From:** Ryan Vise  
**To:** [Bowman, Liz](#); [Wagner, Kenneth](#)  
**Cc:** [Lyons, Troy](#); [Jackson, Ryan](#); [Coleman, Sam](#); [Gray, David](#); [Graham, Amy](#); [Wilcox, Jahan](#); [Kelly, Albert](#); [Grantham, Nancy](#); [Hewitt, James](#)  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATED: For Review: News Release re: Today's Activities  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 5, 2017 8:52:17 AM

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Good here.

Ryan Vise  
Director, Communications and Intergovernmental Relations  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
[ryan.vise@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:ryan.vise@tceq.texas.gov)  
512-239-5022

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**From:** Bowman, Liz [mailto:[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 04, 2017 4:15 PM  
**To:** Wagner, Kenneth <[wagner.kenneth@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.kenneth@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Vise <[Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov](mailto:Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov)>; Lyons, Troy <[lyons.troy@epa.gov](mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov)>; Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>; Coleman, Sam <[Coleman.Sam@epa.gov](mailto:Coleman.Sam@epa.gov)>; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>; Kelly, Albert <[kelly.albert@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.albert@epa.gov)>; Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>; Hewitt, James <[hewitt.james@epa.gov](mailto:hewitt.james@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: UPDATED: For Review: News Release re: Today's Activities

Ryan/Ken – Are we good to send?

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**From:** Wagner, Kenneth  
**Sent:** Monday, September 4, 2017 5:08 PM  
**To:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ryan Vise <[Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov](mailto:Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov)>; Lyons, Troy <[lyons.troy@epa.gov](mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov)>; Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>; Coleman, Sam <[Coleman.Sam@epa.gov](mailto:Coleman.Sam@epa.gov)>; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>; Kelly, Albert <[kelly.albert@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.albert@epa.gov)>; Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>; Hewitt, James <[hewitt.james@epa.gov](mailto:hewitt.james@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: UPDATED: For Review: News Release re: Today's Activities

An additional briefing with Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner is scheduled for Tuesday morning.

Replace with:

Additionally, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner and the City's leaders were briefed by US EPA and TCEQ senior leadership on multiple issues, including the status of the Superfund sites in and around the Houston area.

**Kenneth E. Wagner**

*Senior Advisor to the Administrator*

*For Regional and State Affairs*

**U S Environmental Protection Agency**

**202-564-1988 office**

**202-309-2418 cell**

[wagner.kenneth@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.kenneth@epa.gov)

On Sep 4, 2017, at 3:46 PM, Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)> wrote:

Current version of the press release is below. We will send this as soon as I get the "go" from Ryan/Ken W., ideally in the next 30 minutes, along with some photos from today. Troy/Ken – Please review with eagle eye for spellings, titles, and make sure I am including everyone who needs to be mentioned, etc. Thank you – Liz

EPA/TCEQ WELCOME NATIONAL NEWS OUTLETS TO SUPERFUND  
SITES;

UPDATE LOCAL, NATIONAL LEADERS ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL  
EFFECTS OF HARVEY

DALLAS (September 4, 2017) – ABC, CBS, CNN, CNBC & Bloomberg news crews joined TCEQ and EPA technical staff on site at Superfund sites around Houston today. The TV crews, following all health and safety requirements of site managers, shadowed the work of TCEQ and EPA technical experts on the ground at three Superfund sites: U.S. Oil Recovery, Acid Pits and the San Jacinto Waste Pits.

Crews were able to take videos, photographs and talk directly with technical staff and subject matter experts on the ground. Boats were on the water determining impacts at the temporary armored cap in the San Jacinto River, to provide access to the crews.

"The TCEQ is working closely with the EPA and local officials to assess the status of Superfund sites in the affected area. We will continue this as sites are safely accessible," said TCEQ Chairman Bryan Shaw.

"We are working directly with those responsible for the on-going cleanup of

Superfund sites to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information about health and environmental risks to the community from the effects of hurricane Harvey, especially at Superfund sites affected by the storm,” said EPA Region 6 Acting Associate Administrator Sam Coleman.

In addition to taking news crews on site today, EPA Acting Regional Director Sam Coleman and TCEQ Chairman Bryan Shaw provided an update of their joint efforts to assess the health and environmental impacts of Hurricane Harvey to a local, state and federal officials. The discussion with local officials included: Harris County Judge Ed Emmett, Executive Director of the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) Russ Poppe, Harris County Engineer and Director of Public Infrastructure John Blount and Dr. Umair Shah from the Harris County Public Health Department.

National participants included: officials and experts from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Together, they provided updates to and answered questions from U.S. Senator John Cornyn, U.S. House of Representative Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, U.S. Congressman Randy Weber and other government officials at the Harris County Emergency Operations Center in Houston.

An additional briefing with Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner is scheduled for Tuesday morning.

As of Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, EPA staff was imbedded in Mayor Turner’s office to provide continued communication among local, state and federal officials. EPA and TCEQ remain in constant communication with Governor Abbott’s office.

In addition, TCEQ and EPA toxicologists and technical experts are on the ground and in the air collecting real-time air monitoring and water quality data. That information is being analyzed by experts now and will be provided to the public as soon as it is available. We encourage the community to continue to follow the expert safety advice of local officials.

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**From:** Ryan Vise [<mailto:Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov>]

**Sent:** Monday, September 4, 2017 3:24 PM

**To:** Lyons, Troy <[lyons.troy@epa.gov](mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>; Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>; Coleman, Sam <[Coleman.Sam@epa.gov](mailto:Coleman.Sam@epa.gov)>; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>; Wagner, Kenneth <[wagner.kenneth@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.kenneth@epa.gov)>; Kelly, Albert <[kelly.albert@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.albert@epa.gov)>; Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: For Review: News Release re: Today's Activities

The governor's office is going to pass on the quote and defer to Chairman Shaw's quote.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 4, 2017, at 1:10 PM, Lyons, Troy <[lyons.troy@epa.gov](mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov)> wrote:

Great. Many thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 4, 2017, at 2:10 PM, Ryan Vise <[Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov](mailto:Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov)> wrote:

Troy, I have just reached out to Governor's Office also, but it would hurt to have EPA make the request also.

Ryan Vise  
Director, Communications and Intergovernmental Relations  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
[ryan.vise@tceq.texas.gov](mailto:ryan.vise@tceq.texas.gov)  
512-239-5022

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**From:** Lyons, Troy [<mailto:lyons.troy@epa.gov>]

**Sent:** Monday, September 04, 2017 1:06 PM

**To:** Bowman, Liz <[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto:Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Ryan Vise <[Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov](mailto:Ryan.Vise@Tceq.Texas.Gov)>; Jackson, Ryan <[jackson.ryan@epa.gov](mailto:jackson.ryan@epa.gov)>; Coleman, Sam <[Coleman.Sam@epa.gov](mailto:Coleman.Sam@epa.gov)>; Gray, David <[gray.david@epa.gov](mailto:gray.david@epa.gov)>; Graham, Amy <[graham.amy@epa.gov](mailto:graham.amy@epa.gov)>; Wilcox, Jahan <[wilcox.jahan@epa.gov](mailto:wilcox.jahan@epa.gov)>; Wagner, Kenneth <[wagner.kenneth@epa.gov](mailto:wagner.kenneth@epa.gov)>; Kelly, Albert <[kelly.albert@epa.gov](mailto:kelly.albert@epa.gov)>; Grantham, Nancy <[Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov](mailto:Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: For Review: News Release re: Today's Activities

As you all know, the request is in w the Mayor's office and it

looks favorable.

I've reached out to senator Cornyn's office and will reach out to the gov and cong weber's office.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 4, 2017, at 1:34 PM, Bowman, Liz  
<[Bowman.Liz@epa.gov](mailto: Bowman.Liz@epa.gov)> wrote:

Hi Ryan – As discussed on the phone, below, please find a first draft of a statement that we would like to send today following the days' activities. Kell/Sam/Ken/Troy, can you please work to get quotes from other officials mentioned in this release? And, please review and confirm the names and titles listed below. Thank you -- Liz

EPA/TCEQ WELCOME NATIONAL  
NEWS OUTLETS TO SUPERFUND  
SITES;  
UPDATE LOCAL, NATIONAL LEADERS  
ON HEALTH, ENVIRONMENTAL  
EFFECTS OF HARVEY

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Crews were able to take videos, photographs and talk directly with technical staff and subject matter experts on the ground. Boats were on the water determining impacts at the temporary armored cap in the San Jacinto River, to provide access to the crews.

**[TCEQ quote from Bryan Shaw]**

“We are working directly with those responsible for the on-going cleanup of Superfund sites to ensure that we have the most up-to-date information about health and environmental risks to the community from the effects of hurricane Harvey, especially at Superfund sites affected by the storm,” said EPA Regional 6 Acting Associate Administrator Sam Coleman.

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provided updates to and answered questions from U.S. Senator John Cornyn, U.S. House of Representative Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, U.S. Congressman Randy Weber and other government officials at the Harris County Emergency Operations Center in Houston.

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As of Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, EPA staff was imbedded in Mayor Turner's office to provide continued communication among local, state and federal officials. EPA and TCEQ remain in constant communication with Governor Abbott's office.

[Governor's Office Quote]

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[MoC Quote]

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[Mayor Quote]

In addition, TCEQ and EPA toxicologists and technical experts are on the ground and in the air collecting real-time air monitoring and water quality data. That information is being analyzed by experts now and will be provided to the public as soon as it is available. We encourage the community to continue to follow the expert safety advice of local officials.

[INSERT PHOTOS]

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Liz Bowman  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
Office: 202-564-3293